

CLAIMS:

1. An anchoring device which is suitable for anchoring an elongate member to a fixed member having a slot leading to an edge thereof, the anchoring device comprising a sleeve which is fixable coaxially around said elongate member and which is provided with a peripheral groove, the axial length of which is sufficient to accommodate the thickness of the fixed member at said slot, the outer dimension of the groove being less than the inner dimension of the slot, the anchoring device further comprising a collar member which is carried by, and axially moveable along, said sleeve, said collar member having a leading edge which extends into said groove when the anchoring device is located within said slot, to effectively increase the dimension of said groove and prevent said anchoring device from being withdrawn from said slot, the collar member being arranged such that the leading edge thereof can be withdrawn from the groove by moving the collar member along the sleeve in an axial direction away from the slot, so as to enable the anchoring device to be withdrawn from the slot.
2. An anchoring device according to claim 1, wherein, when said anchoring device is located within said slot, the leading edge of said collar member substantially fills the gap between the groove and the slot, said gap being created by the difference in their respective dimensions.
3. An anchoring device according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said collar member is substantially cylindrical and said leading edge is substantially circular.
4. An anchoring device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said slot is generally U-shaped and includes a narrowed neck portion, beneath which said leading edge of the collar member is engaged when said anchoring device is located within said slot.

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5. An anchoring device according to any one of the preceding claim, wherein said leading edge includes a chamfer.
6. An anchoring device according to claim 5, wherein said fixed member includes at least one chamfer at the open edge thereof, the chamfer of the leading edge of the collar member and the at least one chamfer of the fixed member being arranged to cooperate with each other such that when said anchoring device is inserted in said slot, the fixed member chamfer operates to push the leading edge of the collar out of the groove and away from the fixed member.
7. An anchoring device according to claim 6, wherein the collar member is spring biased in the direction of the fixed member, such that when the anchoring device is fully located within the slot, the leading edge of the collar member automatically extends into the groove.
8. An anchoring device according to claim 7, wherein said collar member is manually retractable against the spring force to withdraw the leading edge thereof from the groove, and enable the anchoring device to be withdrawn from the slot.
9. An anchoring device according to any one of the preceding claims, including a load bearing ring surrounding at least a portion of said collar member.
10. An anchoring device according to claim 7, including a spring located underneath said collar member and retained in compression by a cap member.
11. An anchoring device substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.